

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03

SCA-01 IO-10 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /090 W

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R 231009Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9760

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. AMUND HOFF BERGE, THE SCANDINAVIAN PRESIDENT OF A RELIGIOUS-PHILOSOPHICAL ORGANIZATION CALLED SUBUD, CAME TO THE EMBASSY ON MAY 20 TO REQUEST THAT IMMIGRANT VISAS BE ISSUED TO 29 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO, "ARE FIGHTING A BATTLE WITH TIME", SINCE THEY ARE IN GREAT DANGER OF BEING SENT BACK TO VIETNAM AGAINST THEIR WILL. BERGE SAID THE 29 VIETNAMESE ARRIVED IN A SMALL BOAT AT A MARINE BASE IN SOUTHERN THAILAND A FEW DAYS AFTER THE FIGHTING STOPPED IN VIETNAM. THEY ARE BEING ASSISTED BY A RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGKOK, FREDRICK SCHJANDER, WHO IS TRYING TO PERSUADE THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY TO ACCEPT THEM AS REFUGEES.

2. MR. BERGE SAID THAT A SUBUD REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGKOK HAS CONTACTED I.C.E.M. AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO FINANCE THE TRIP BY THE 29 VIETNAMESE TO NORWAY IF THEY ARE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS. BERGE SAID, HOWEVER, HE WAS SURE SOME OF THE GROUP WILL WANT TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND FOR THIS REASON, HE CAME TO US FOR ASSISTANCE.

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3. EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE ON MAY 22 WITH VRAALSEN, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SECTION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THAI AUTHORITIES. THAIS HAVE ASSURED NORWEGIANS THAT VIETNAMESE WERE NOT IN DANGER NOR WOULD THEY BE COMPELLED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. VRAALSEN SAID THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE PRESENT, IS NOT CONSIDERING ANY FURTHER ACTION, SUCH AS GRANTING REFUGEE STATUS TO THESE VIETNAMESE. HE SAID THEIR IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE VIETNAMESE AND THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH THE THAI OFFICIALS AGAIN TODAY ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

ACTION REQUESTED:

WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION POST HAS ON THESE 29 VIETNAMESE WHO APPARENTLY HAVE TRIED TO IMMIGRATE TO THE STATES. VRAALSEN ALSO REQUESTS THAT WE PASS ON ANY INFO WHICH WE MAY HAVE ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE 29 VIETNAMESE.

FOR DEPARTMENT:

MR. BERGE SAID THAT A SUBUD REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO SAID THAT ANY REQUEST BY MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED.

BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, IMMIGRANT VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO02089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0739
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750523/aaaaaukv.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, VS, NO, SUBUD, (HOFF BERGE, AMUND)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006